

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

## head: INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Title: **Friday, June 20, 1986 10:00 a.m.**

Date: **86/06/20**

[The House met at 10 a.m.]

## PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

## head: INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce to you, and through you to members of the Assembly, two distinguished visitors seated in your gallery: the Ambassador to Canada from Finland, His Excellency Jaako Blomberg; and Christian Graefe, Honorary Consul for Finland here in Edmonton. Will you please extend to them the usual warm welcome of the Assembly.

## head: INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

## Bill 233

## Public Service Opportunity Act

MR. MUSGREAVE: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a Bill, the Public Service Opportunity Act.

This Bill will provide a standing offer from the government that anyone who can deliver a service currently being offered by government at the current quality level and at a saving of 50 percent of current cost will be awarded a multiyear franchise or licence to do so upon submission of a credible plan of action.

[Leave granted; Bill 233 read a first time]

## head: TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS

MR. M. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table with the House two annual reports, one being the Department of Hospitals and Medical Care annual report for the year ended March 31, 1985, and secondly, the Alberta health care insurance plan annual report for the year ended March 31, 1985.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to file for the information of the House the report of the Alberta Human Tissue Procurement Task Force, dated October 7, 1985. That task force was chaired by former MLA Andrew Little, and the task force report grew out of a debate on private members' day in this Legislature.

MRS. OSTERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to file the 1985 report of the Provincial Senior Citizens' Advisory Council.

DR. ELLIOTT: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the annual report for the Northern Alberta Development Council for the year 1985-86.

DR. REID: In your gallery, Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce Mr. Terry McQuade and Mr. Norm Sliter. These gentlemen are delegates to the Alberta Building Trades Council, and members will have seen them and some of the other members out on the steps of the Legislature this morning. They are indicating that they are going to push me for the next few months on a review of the labour statutes. I would like them to rise and receive the welcome of the Assembly.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce two classes of students from schools in the Edmonton Parkallen constituency. I think I should do them alphabetically. Therefore, Lendrum school comes first. There are 28 grades 5 and 6 students accompanied by their teacher, Ms Dunlop, and Mrs. Vandenberg. As the students stand, I would ask the Assembly to give them the usual warm welcome.

Mr. Speaker, proceeding to St. Martin school, there are 21 students from a grade 6 class visiting the Assembly this morning with their teacher Wil Micklich and parents Mrs. Zarsky and Mrs. Klymchuk.

In respect to these schools I might say that I had the pleasure of visiting both last year on more than one occasion, in particular, to provide them with copies of *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. I recall that. I would now ask the St. Martin students, teacher, and parents to stand and receive the welcome of the Assembly.

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, I too have the pleasure to introduce to you and through you 20 grade 6 students from the Colchester school. They are accompanied by teachers Carol Roth and Delia McRae and one of the parents, Mrs. M. Hipkin. I would ask the Chamber to extend their warm welcome as these students from the Colchester school rise to receive our warm welcome.

MR. SIGURDSON: Mr. Speaker, today I have the honour to introduce to you and other members of the Assembly 48 students from the grades 5 and 6 classes of Delwood elementary school. Today they are accompanied by their teachers Mr. Bill Chebuk and Renata Szwender and a parent, Mrs. Sanderson. They are seated in the public gallery, and I would ask that they rise to receive the warm and traditional welcome of the Assembly.

MS LAING: Mr. Speaker, I wish to introduce to you, and through you to the members of this Assembly, 18 grade 6 students from Avonmore school in the constituency of Edmonton Avonmore. They are accompanied by their teacher Vern Lowry. I would like to have you join me in welcoming them to this Assembly.

MR. ADY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you, and through you to this Assembly, two members of the grade 9 class from the Del Bonita school. Since there are only two, which comprise half of the class in that school. I'd like to use their names. They are James Robinson and Serena Helgeson, along with two parents who are travelling with them, Margaret Robinson and Sharyn Helgeson. These students have travelled 400 miles to be here. It's not often that we have students from our constituency. Would you join me in welcoming them to this Assembly.

## head: MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Department of Labour

DR. REID: Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 16, I announced that pursuant to the Public Inquiries Act, an inquiry will be held into the tragic events of Saturday, June 14, 1986, at West Edmonton Mall where three young Albertans lost their lives.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce that Mr. Kenneth A. McKenzie, Q.C., chairman, and Dr. Geoffrey L. Kulak, commissioner, will conduct this inquiry. In particular, they will inquire into

- 1) the design, construction, installation, maintenance, and operation of the roller coaster;
- 2) the factors contributing to, the causes of, and circumstances connected with the accident;
- 3) the adequacy of existing provincial laws, regulations, rules, and the standards governing amusement ride operations and safety insofar as they relate to the accident;
- 4) the adequacy of existing practices, procedures, and standards governing amusement ride operations and safety followed by the owners and operators of the roller coaster insofar as they relate to the accident;
- 5) the performance of all persons and mechanical components involved in the operation of the roller coaster;
- 6) the steps that can reasonably be taken to reduce the risk of the occurrence of such accidents; and
- 7) any matters incidental or relating to any of the matters referred to in paragraphs one to six.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, in a quick perusal of the ministerial statement it seems to be complete, and it does seem to answer some of the questions I had about how broad it would be, because we are dealing with the adequacy of existing provincial laws, regulations, rules, and standards. I would look forward to seeing what they come up with.

The only other question I may have at some point is the time frame in which they will be reporting back, Mr. Speaker, because we have roller coasters coming with the Stampede, Klondike Days, and all the rest of it. That would be the only concern I have. As I say, I would support the ministerial statement, because it does look like it is a complete looking into, if I can put it that way, into this tragedy.

### Department of the Solicitor General

MR. ROSTAD: Mr. Speaker, as indicated in the House earlier this week, our government received a request from the federal government to end the procurement of South African products. We have reviewed this situation and have advised the Alberta Liquor Control Board to cease ordering South African products until further advised. Our present inventory will continue to be offered for sale until fully depleted.

The federal government has the responsibility and expertise with which to follow the development of affairs in other nations. Accordingly, we have complied with their request not to procure products from South Africa.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I am very, very pleased with the minister's ministerial announcement. It goes back over a number of years that we've been requesting this particular

move. I can think back as late as three or four years ago. I welcome the ministerial statement and praise the minister. Good work; it's time it should have been done.

### Department of Manpower

MR. ORMAN: Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Manpower I would like to announce a promotional campaign on Alberta manpower training and retraining initiatives. It was launched June 16 and will run for a total of three weeks. The campaign encourages unemployed Albertans to call the Alberta manpower career information centres and the hotlines or visit the nearest career centre to find out more about Alberta Manpower training programs. The department operates 16 career centres throughout the province.

"Turn yourself in a new direction, look us up" is the theme of this provincewide campaign which includes radio and print advertisements as well as promotional materials.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, in rising to reply to the third ministerial statement of the day, it's very much like a ministerial announcement last week announcing Senior Citizens Week. Who can be against giving information to the unemployed? Obviously, we would support this, but I'd say the information is good if unemployed people are getting it no matter how inadequate the programs are.

The other point that I would make, though, and I think it's a fundamental one, is that there would be less need for spending money on these advertising campaigns if we put our energy towards working towards an economic strategy of full employment, Mr. Speaker. The point that I want to make is, if I can use this to the government — as I understand the slogan is, "Turn yourself in a new direction" — may I suggest that the government turn themselves in a new direction and bring in much more meaningful announcements from the minister's department about how we're going to get this tremendous rate of unemployment down in this province.

## head: ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

### Extra Billing

MR. MARTIN: If I may, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the first question to the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care. As of today extra billing is no longer legal in Ontario, which leaves Alberta as the only province in which there is a significant amount of extra billing and one of only two provinces which allow it at all. My question to the minister is: when will the minister be introducing legislation to end the unfair practice of extra billing in this province once and for all?

MR. M. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, our objectives are to negotiate an arrangement with the Alberta Medical Association such that the funds that are being withheld by Ottawa now with respect to the Canada Health Act can be made available to Alberta. In that regard I have had a number of meetings with the executive of the Alberta Medical Association. In fact, we'll be meeting with them again today to pursue those negotiations.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that you're meeting with the Alberta Medical Association. That's an important step. To be more specific, it seems to me that there is a

law of the land called the Canada Health Act. Could the minister be more specific about how the government is going to recover, I believe, some \$24 million in penalties? In the Canada Health Act it clearly states that extra billing is illegal. How can the minister do this without banning extra billing? Would he be more specific?

MR. M. MOORE: First of all, Mr. Speaker, the hon. Leader of the Opposition is not accurate in his statement with respect to what the Canada Health Act does or doesn't say. There are provisions in the Canada Health Act for the federal minister of health to determine whether or not a province meets the intent and the spirit of the Canada Health Act. I've been talking with the federal minister, and I believe we can work out some arrangements with the medical profession in this province that will allow us to meet the spirit and the intent of the Canada Health Act and be able to allow us to convince the federal minister that we've done that. The negotiations I'm having with the Alberta Medical Association, of course, can't be held in public. I don't know how long that will be but I certainly hope before March 31, 1987. When I've completed them, we'll have an opportunity then to debate them in this Legislature and perhaps outside of it.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, just to follow up on the minister's answer. Is the minister saying that he's had consultation with his federal counterpart and that they are going to allow some arrangement in Alberta that would allow the practice of extra billing to continue? Is that what the minister is saying?

MR. M. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, what I'm saying is that I have read the Canada Health Act and I understand it.

MR. MARTIN: That's very interesting. I'm glad the minister has read the Canada Health Act and he understands it. I guess that's a step in the right direction from most of the ministers. I believe we have until July 1, 1987, or we're going to lose a significant amount of money to our Treasury at a time when we have a high deficit. My question then to the minister is: can he tell us when he will come to some sort of solution to this problem, and secondly, when it is clear he is not allowed to continue with extra billing, will we then move to end extra billing in this province?

MR. M. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, I've think I've already answered the first part of the question. The objective, of course, is to convince the federal minister by March 31, 1987, that we have met the terms of the Canada Health Act. I don't know what form that will take. We are in the midst of negotiations with the Alberta Medical Association, and we'll be negotiating with the federal government.

The hon. member should know that this province in its health care insurance plan provides more insured services than any province in Canada. There are a good number of those services, such as cosmetic surgery and so on, that are not required under the Canada Health Act. Indeed, there can be situations existing in this province or any other where certain services would be billed directly, not covered by health care insurance, or extra billed, and you might still possibly meet the terms of the Canada Health Act. The issue is far more complicated than the hon. member would like to realize, and it will take some time and a different approach than that being used by the coalition in Ontario to bring about a resolution to this problem that will be

beneficial not only to the people of Alberta but to the medical practitioners here as well.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, to the minister in charge of extra billing. Could the minister elaborate on his statement that he was continuing discussions with the doctors to be allowed to go to Ottawa to ask for money back? Since when is the doctors' permission necessary for us to get our taxpayers' money back from Ottawa?

MR. M. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that I suggested at all that the doctors' permission was necessary. What I have said and will continue to say is that the approach this government will take to the resolution of a problem of this nature is to sit down and have meaningful discussions with all the parties concerned. Firstly, that means the doctors of this province, and secondly, the federal minister who's involved and, to make sure when we're doing that, that we have in mind the concerns of the people of this province with respect to medical care. I certainly am not going to go to the doctors and say: "Here is the Ontario Liberal plan. Take it or leave it." I believe there are better ways.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister, and it's with regards to the incidence of extra billing in the province of Alberta. Could the minister indicate what trend that incidence has taken over the past few months? Has the Alberta medical profession indicated that they're prepared to come to grips with extra billing in the province in terms of voluntary responsibility?

MR. M. MOORE: Some months ago my colleague, the former Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care, did in fact have several meetings with the Alberta Medical Association in an effort to get them to reduce the incidence of extra billing, particularly with regard to people who might be on limited or fixed incomes and elderly people. Since that time there has been a fairly major and significant reduction in the overall incidence of extra billing in Alberta, particularly with regard to people who are on fixed incomes and not able to afford the additional cost.

#### **Social Services Staffing Levels**

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to designate my second question to the Member for Edmonton Calder.

MS MJOLSNESS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by tabling two items for the information of all members of the Assembly. One is a photocopy of the Blues for part of yesterday's Oral Question Period, and the other is a photocopy of a memo dated June 10, 1986, from the Edmonton regional director of Social Services to the associate deputy minister of Social Services.

MR. SPEAKER: It strikes the Chair as a touch unusual that we're now having filings in the middle of question period, but if you'd like to rapidly get your question, please.

MR. MARTIN: On a point of order, we've traditionally had that in here over the last number of years.

MS MJOLSNESS: In Oral Question Period yesterday the Minister of Social Services said that staff reductions in her

department "are not in the area of direct services that we provide to the people of Alberta." However, in the memo it is made clear that in April alone...[interjections] I'm just trying to explain, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Please, members of the government benches. It is indeed the member's first opportunity in question period. Could we give just a touch more leeway, please. I know the member will come quickly to her question.

MS MJOLSNESS: Mr. Speaker, in the memo, however, it is made clear that in April alone in the Edmonton region six income security positions, four of them front-line social worker positions, were terminated. Given this apparent contradiction, can the minister explain how it may be that she did not mislead the Assembly yesterday?

MRS. OSTERMAN: Mr. Speaker, in terms of reductions that have taken place in some particular part of the department, where we have in fact some 5,500 people working for the Department of Social Services, I would not be familiar with a particular reduction. But I do know that I have instructed the management and the senior staff in the Department of Social Services to make sure that they have sufficient people, particularly in the intake area, to manage the increase in the number of people who are presently applying for social services. To that end, as I understand it, we are presently in the hiring mode, utilizing manpower positions that are in place in the present budget.

MS MJOLSNESS: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In 1982 the department adopted a standard of 125 cases per income security worker. Is an average case load of 125 still the department's standard for income security workers? If so, can the minister advise when she anticipates that this goal will be met?

MRS. OSTERMAN: As I understand it, Mr. Speaker, the standard that was developed a number of years ago has not been maintained the last while because of the significant increase in the social allowance area. Again, to that end I have been very concerned, as a result of my visits to a number of the district and regional offices, that the front-line workers are indeed badly overworked and have instructed there be additional staff hired.

MS MJOLSNESS: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The memo indicates that due to unreasonable caseloads, client needs are not being met. There has been an increase in stress-related illnesses among income security staff, and there has been an increase in client violence towards staff. My question is this: will the minister assure this Assembly that she will now provide a sufficient increase in staff for the income security area so as to ensure these appalling problems are brought under control immediately?

MRS. OSTERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I was very concerned with the hon. member's introduction to the question. Did I understand the hon. member to say that there was an increase in client violence?

MS MJOLSNESS: It's in the memo.

MRS. OSTERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I think the stress related to unemployment and the shortage of income by a number of people is well known to us all, because it is a stress

that any person would feel under similar circumstances. So if there's an increase in that area, I'm sure it is related to the increased numbers of people who are in fact visiting the offices. That is obvious. To the hon. member, I have again given instructions that the numbers of workers must be increased.

MS MJOLSNESS: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister offer any reason at all why the involuntary poor in Alberta and those hired to meet their legitimate needs should not conclude that this government is doing everything it can to make their lives miserable?

MR. SPEAKER: I'm sorry; we're dealing in the area of opinion.

### Food Banks

MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Minister of Social Services. I ask this question on behalf of those people in Alberta who feel that being poor is more than a "rotten inconvenience," as the minister described it several days ago in her speech in response to the throne speech. Are the cutbacks that have been mentioned in the question by the hon. Member for Edmonton Calder going to affect your department's ability to support those people currently having to rely so heavily on the food bank in order to eat?

MRS. OSTERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I think an important comment to make here is that our very close working relationship with the people operating the Calgary food bank in trying to obtain an analysis of the numbers who are using the food bank, the circumstances in which they find themselves, and why they must access the food bank — the information supplied from the Calgary situation is that some 1 percent of those people who find themselves now having to utilize social assistance go to this food bank. Some 1 percent of our welfare recipients are actually accessing the food bank.

We will continue, with the help of those who are also expert in the area, working with the public who now find themselves short of money, as I think the hon. member will find that I said — and it is a rotten inconvenience — and unfortunately, more and more people have found themselves in those circumstances. But there will be no one in this province who finds themselves in that position and fits the criteria that have been developed over a long period of time — criteria that are under examination — who will be without. The social allowance policy is clear, and people who apply and fit the criteria will obviously be able to access it.

### Pork Industry

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, and through you to the hon. half minister of Agriculture. Is he a full minister? To the Minister of Agriculture, or minister of half of Agriculture — is that closer than half a minister? The Ontario Minister of Agriculture, the full minister of Agriculture in Ontario, has granted \$49 million to the province's 15,000 pork producers. Could our Alberta minister tell us just what he is doing here in Alberta to counter this \$49 million boost to Ontario pork producers?

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, if the Member for Westlock-Sturgeon would pay attention in question period, he would

recognize that I answered that question when it was put to me by the hon. Member for Wainwright on Wednesday in the Chamber.

MR. TAYLOR: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I did read it, and in his stickhandling and Gretzky-like answers it was impossible to determine just what he was going to do. Could I ask my very facile friend, the Minister of Agriculture, just how many jobs that will cost here in our pork packing industry if Ontario goes ahead with their subsidy program?

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, in the release that was put out by the Ontario government in announcing this program, they themselves indicated that it was not going to do anything to increase production of hogs. So I don't see that it's going to have any impact.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, I think I speak for many in Alberta who are very concerned about the pork industry and the whole meat packing industry. Yesterday we brought up that there are over 100 jobs that have been cancelled in Lethbridge. It seems that our minister is presiding over the dissolution of the meat packing industry. Has he any plans, just one solid plan, one scintilla of hope for those that are producing pork in this province?

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, in response to the Member for Westlock-Sturgeon, let me indicate to him that we have a number of plans and a number of programs presently in place to offset some of the difficulties that our entire agricultural sector is facing, including the hog industry. One only has to look at the feed grain market adjustment program, which pays out \$21 per tonne as it relates to grain to offset some of the negative impacts as it relates to the Crow benefit payment. We've also got a very lucrative and worthwhile program as it relates to the reduction of farm fuel costs for the agricultural sector. We hope in the very near future to have in the final stages the very valuable farm credit stability program, which will be forthcoming very soon and which will be very beneficial not only to hog producers but to all of the agricultural sector.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary. I just want to take a pick at one of the items on the menu the hon. minister put forward. Is he aware that the \$20 a tonne to \$21 a tonne subsidy for feed also goes to Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario feed producers, that our Alberta feed producers are being denied markets because the \$21 Alberta taxpayer subsidy is going to grain producers outside this province?

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, unlike a lot of members opposite, we recognize that we do live in Canada. We're not an island unto ourselves in this province. I should point out to him that only 3.8 percent is paid out to other provinces under this program.

MR. FOX: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture. Has he made a study of the Ontario proposal? If so, does he have any plans of implementing some of those provisions in the Alberta pork industry?

MR. ELZINGA: Again, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the hon. Member for Wainwright when he put the question to me on Wednesday, we reviewed where the \$49 million was

going to be paid and the \$5 million as it related to increased market awareness for the hog industry. We already have a number of very worthwhile programs in this province, and we are consistently analyzing the various programs that we offer the agricultural sector to see if we can't upgrade and revise them so that they are more acceptable and more suitable to our agricultural sector.

#### **Mortgage and Housing Corporation**

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs responsible for the Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation. My concern in my question is with regards to the loss of equity of some billion dollars to that corporation in its administration and certainly its future. With regards to the amalgamation of the Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation within the department, does this mean that the Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation will be eliminated in this province?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Alberta Mortgage and Housing Corporation, which is the successor to the two predecessor corporations, housing and mortgage, is not scheduled for dissolution at this time.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. In the new budget that was brought down, the budget for the Alberta Mortgage and Housing Corporation was reduced by some 22.5 percent. Could the minister indicate whether there will be a significant contraction in the role of AMHC in this province?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the budget always reflects the need the corporation would have for capital to lend. At the present time, given the number of housing starts and other types of development, the budget is considered to be adequate for that purpose.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. In a letter of information received from the former minister, indication was given to me that as of January 31, 1986, the AMHC owned some 4,442 properties. Of these, 3,593 were designated rental; 415 were designated for sale. My question to the minister is: with that amount of real estate being held in place by the Alberta Mortgage and Housing Corporation, will the same policy be followed, as was followed by the previous minister, that the properties would be retained in the portfolio of AMHC rather than put out on the open market?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, there is a delicate balance there, of course, in the sense that the marketing of a lot of properties owned by the corporation at any given moment would have an effect on the marketing of homes elsewhere and in the same communities, in particular, homes owned by private citizens. So the policy is that the large number of homes owned by the corporation are basically held as rental properties, and the sale of those in the market is judged according to the house prices provincewide.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, to the minister. In the sale of foreclosed homes, is the minister giving any thought to a program whereby the original purchaser, who is being foreclosed upon, can be given an opportunity to buy back the foreclosed home at the same price as it's going to be

offered on the market, which is usually quite a lot less than what it was being foreclosed for?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I know of no policy which would work against that situation, and I think I can assure the hon. member that in those circumstances the former owner would be as credible and available a purchaser as any other person.

#### **Edmonton Landfill Site**

MR. EWASIUK: Mr. Speaker, to the minister. It is my understanding that the government of Alberta, through the CMHC, owns the property on which the city of Edmonton is proposing to develop a landfill site in northeast Edmonton. Could the minister tell me if there are any discussions with the city relative to the sale of this property, or is this sacred land which is not being made available for landfill sites?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I would have to take that question as notice and get back to the hon. member as to the ownership and any intention to market it.

#### **Student Grants for Expo 86**

MR. DROBOT: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Education. What is the original amount of funding allocated to the Expo 86 student transportation grant, and has all that funding been taken up?

MRS. BETKOWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the question from the Member for St. Paul. For the background of new members, the Expo grants were announced in December of 1985 and provided \$100 to assist students in Alberta to travel to Expo 86. The original allocation from lottery funds for that purpose was \$3.6 million. Because of the interest of students and the high take-up, that figure has now been estimated to be \$3.9 million.

MR. DROBOT: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. Are there student groups who have not been able to receive funding under this program?

MRS. BETKOWSKI: Mr. Speaker, when the program was originally announced in December of 1985, the original deadline for application by school boards was December 31, 1986. Because we felt at the time that a lot of students hadn't yet benefitted from the program nor applied, that deadline was extended a further 2 months to March 31, 1986. I'm not aware of students that haven't been able to apply for the program. There have certainly been inquiries as to whether the program would be extended, but I'm not aware of students that have been turned down.

#### **Medical Services in Rural Areas**

MRS. HEWES: Mr. Speaker, to the hon. Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care relative to the hospital and medical situation in Cold Lake. Recently the local hospital board, Mr. Minister, has dismissed the administrator, and I understand you've directed them to secure a replacement. I've also asked the College of Physicians and Surgeons for an inquiry into the dearth of doctors in the region. My question is: will the minister outline what other plans he has to ensure that sufficient and continuous medical and

administrative support is made available to the people of Cold Lake?

MR. M. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, that's an important question. Shortly after I was appointed to this office, I had information provided to me that there was a problem with respect to the John Neil hospital in Cold Lake. In fact, the Member for Bonnyville discussed it with me. I also received a copy of a petition from citizens in the area who are concerned about the actions of the hospital board. So I took the opportunity to travel to Cold Lake and to meet, first of all, with the hospital board, its chairman, and, I believe, all of its members, and the acting administrator at the time. I then met with a group of citizens who had expressed some concern with respect to the dismissal of the administrator.

I then had some telephone conversations with both the mayor of Cold Lake and the mayor of Grand Centre. Finally, after having discussed the matter at length with officials in my department, it was my determination that the medical care of the people in Cold Lake is best left in the hands of the existing board, who I believe are able to handle both the commissioning of a new hospital that's under construction and the medical care of the people there. I communicated that information to the board and suggested to them that they ought to move with all possible speed to hire a new administrator and a new assistant administrator.

While I was in Cold Lake, I was also made aware of the difficulty with respect to conflict between certain members of the medical staff in the Cold Lake hospital. I communicated that information to Dr. Roy le Riche, the Registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and asked him if he would inquire into the problems associated with the medical staff. He has assured me that not only would he undertake that inquiry, but the college would try to ensure that there's adequate medical staff in Cold Lake in the event that some doctors leave, as I understand they are preparing to do so. I believe the situation is well in hand.

MRS. HEWES: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. Mr. Minister, you've commented with regard to Cold Lake that perhaps an elected hospital board might more effectively represent the views of the region as opposed to the presently appointed board. My question is: does this represent a policy view of the government in regard to hospital boards throughout the province?

MR. M. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, the situation with regard to the hospital board in Cold Lake is that some members are elected and some are in fact appointed. One of the members who represents the improvement district was elected in October three years ago during the time of the municipal elections. Two of the members are councillors in the town of Cold Lake and the town of Grand Centre, elected councillors and then appointed by their respective councils to the hospital board. There are two other members representing those two towns, who are appointed and members at large.

The concern of the citizens of the area was that they had not had an opportunity to in fact elect these people as hospital board members, except in the case of the one representative of the ID. The MD representative is also appointed. What I said was that it was my view, considering the concerns of the citizens in that area, that it would be best for the municipal authorities involved during the course

of the municipal elections this fall to elect all the hospital board members. Obviously, that doesn't necessarily mean that's the policy of the government right across the province.

One of the things I do want to have a careful look at over the course of the next couple of years — and members of this Assembly might be interested in initiating some debate there — is the question of whether or not hospital boards in this province should be elected as opposed to appointed or whether the present system is adequately serving the needs of our citizens. I think that's an open question, at least in my mind. Obviously, the existing situation with respect to our laws governing the election and appointment of hospital boards will continue until that time.

MRS. HEWES: Mr. Minister, for the year ended March 31, 1984, Alberta had a discreet patient/doctor ratio of 639 to 1. Cold Lake, with its six general practitioners — and I understand even that may now be reduced — and a service area of 12,000 patients, has a patient/doctor ratio of 2,000 to 1. Will the minister explain how the practitioners' incentive program has had any effect on this inequity of service in the Cold Lake region?

MR. M. MOORE: First of all, Mr. Speaker, the patient/doctor ratio can't be compared in an individual hospital as opposed to what exists across the entire province. There are obviously a great deal more specialists in areas like Edmonton or Calgary, where some of the larger hospitals and more specialized facilities are. So you won't find patient/doctor ratios being equal, particularly in the rural areas.

The hon. member asked my office for and received some information with respect to the incentive program that was developed to attract physicians to smaller rural communities. As I understand it, that's been effective in a number of communities. I'm not exactly aware of what effect it might have had on Cold Lake, but I can say that when the new hospital is opened there — and members should know that we presently have a 50-bed hospital that's comprised of some trailers added to an old structure. We have a new 120-bed hospital with provisions for additional beds that is almost completed and due to open this fall. At that time one could expect that there will be an increase in the medical staff because there will be an opportunity for them to practise and have the facilities that are necessary. So I'm not at all alarmed by the fact that there are only six doctors in Cold Lake at the present time. I think that's adequate considering the facilities there. What I am concerned about is the maintenance of that medical staff. If we lose two or three of them, then there could be a serious situation. That's the responsibility of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and they've assured me that they'll work closely with us.

MR. PIQUETTE: The minister of hospitals is probably aware of the Extencicare problem in the Athabasca hospital. Since the hiring of Extencicare in March to run the Athabasca hospital, it was promised to the public that the auditor's report would be revealed. At this date the hospital board has refused to reveal the auditor's report.

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, hon. member. Please take your place. I'm sorry; this is a supplemental question on the other issue. It must be very brief and concise. We cannot have all this extra material on the supplementary.

MR. PIQUETTE: Sorry, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister of hospitals please order the release of this report to the public as soon as possible?

MR. M. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, hospital boards in this province, either elected or appointed, have certain responsibilities for the operation and control of the hospital and its staff. In the case of the Athabasca hospital that board is still in place, and I would advise the hon. member that he might want to direct his inquiries toward the board.

#### **Government Appointments**

MS BARRETT: Mr. Speaker, this morning I wonder if the Premier would advise what representation he received from the Minister of Manpower which led him to institute his guaranteed employment program, or GEP, for former cabinet ministers? Was the intervention of the Minister of Manpower decisive in leading to the Premier's decision?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, I'm having a great deal of difficulty in getting the drift of the question.

MS BARRETT: To clarify, Mr. Speaker, I was wondering if the Premier received any advice from the Minister of Manpower on a guaranteed employment program for previous cabinet ministers?

MR. GETTY: I assume, Mr. Speaker, that fits somewhere into the use of the question period for matters of urgent information?

MR. TAYLOR: A supplementary question to the Premier, Mr. Speaker. In view of the aid program the hon. opposition member mentioned that the Premier has instituted, could he tell the Assembly if there has been any increase in the envelopes or salaries in that mass employment program he announced a couple of days ago for all the ex-ministers? Are they going to receive more as chairmen of these different committees than what these committee chairmen received four years ago? Do you know what the output will be?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, there hasn't been, but we'll certainly review it. I guess the hon. Member for Westlock-Sturgeon is making that representation. We'll certainly review it. I might say that each of those appointments is an opening that is necessary to fill. I'm extremely pleased that elected members are prepared to take on these extra duties. I feel it's far better to have elected people rather than appointed people in positions like this representing the people of Alberta. I'm very proud of them for taking on these extra duties.

MS BARRETT: Mr. Speaker, might I have one more supplementary? I just wonder if the Premier has arranged a meeting with the minister of career development and employment — I'm sorry; I forgot there was a new title for that — to explore ways that this guaranteed employment program might be extended to the 130,000-odd Albertans who are unemployed?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, we'll even consider members of the opposition.

#### **Employment Initiatives**

MR. OLDRING: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Manpower. Earlier this week the minister responded to the current student employment opportunities by pointing out that we had two very good programs, the hire-a-student

program and the summer temporary employment program. Both of these programs have been long-standing programs and have worked very well in our community, and I think they've worked very well for young Albertans throughout the province. In light of the current job situation, has the new minister had an opportunity yet to give any thought to some new initiatives addressing the current situation in Alberta?

MR. ORMAN: Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes. Due to the tremendous success of the hire-a-student program, which is a summer temporary employment program, our department, in co-operation with the federal government, has responded by initiating the development of a program called the youth employment centres. Those will be located in both Calgary and Edmonton.

Unlike the hire-a-student program, Mr. Speaker, this program will operate year-round, and it will be available to youths who are between the ages of 15 and 24. It will assist them in attaining, retraining, and enhancing employment opportunities. I would like to say that in spite of the remarks of the Member for Edmonton Norwood, Mr. Speaker, this government is going in the right direction.

MS BARRETT: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister elaborate? Are these something like the job clubs the government endorsed prior to recent dissolution, privately operated for profit, or are these public service?

MR. ORMAN: Mr. Speaker, these programs are in conjunction with the municipalities. We have worked in consultation with them. They are going to have a large role in the operation of these programs. We are now just awaiting the final approval of the federal government before we can formally proceed and make a statement to this House.

#### **Alberta Vocational Centre, Grouard**

MR. PIQUETTE: Mr. Speaker, in view of the recent boycott involving over 400 people at AVC Grouard, would the Minister of Advanced Education indicate where and when the much-needed married student housing units for the centre will be built?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, following a meeting that involved the MLA for the area, the minister responsible for native affairs, myself, and native leaders from the community, we reached an agreement whereby we're going to have a joint task force or review, committee with the citizens who are concerned to review not only that subject but other items relating directly to the training centre that the natives have a particular interest in. I expect those activities to begin very shortly.

MR. PIQUETTE: A supplementary question. I'm very pleased to hear that. Since over 60 percent of the population at AVC Grouard is native and a lack of consultation with the native people is a long-standing tradition of this government, I'm very pleased to hear that the minister will be starting meaningful consultation with the native community out there. What is the department's policy regarding groups such as the president's advisory council of AVC Grouard? What guidelines are there for membership on such councils, and how representative are they of the population living in that area?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, before responding to the question, I'd like to correct a statement I believe the hon. member probably made innocently in saying that this government has a record of nonconsultation with the native groups in this province. He knows that's blatantly incorrect. Let's go back to the constitutional conferences and see what Premier of what province was at the forefront on behalf of native Canadians. Let's check the record. [interjections] I didn't realize there were so many thin skins over on the other side of the House.

I guess I was so engrossed with the inaccuracy in the member's preamble that I didn't catch the import of his question. Would you mind repeating the question please?

MR. PIQUETTE: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, hon. member. Please take your place. The time for question period has expired. I'm glad to see the popularity of question period continues. Today we have eight members left in the on-deck circle.

The Minister of Education would like to supplement an answer given earlier. Do we have the agreement of the House?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

#### **Student Grants for Expo 86 (continued)**

MRS. BETKOWSKI: Mr. Speaker, when I was speaking about the Expo grants, in my enthusiasm I said that the program had been announced in December '86. In fact, it was announced in December '85, and the two extensions were March 31, '86, and May 31, '86.

MR. CHUMIR: Mr. Speaker, would it be possible to ask the minister a supplementary on that?

MR. SPEAKER: That supplemental information was a courtesy at the end of question period. Might we revert briefly to Introduction of Special Guests?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

#### **head: INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS (reversion)**

MR. SIGURDSON: Mr. Speaker, I have phase two, I suppose, of the Delwood school here. One hundred and fifteen grades 5 and 6 students are in the members' gallery. They're accompanied by their teacher Maurice Tymofichuk — I probably got that one wrong, and I may get the next one wrong; I've not met with them yet — and another teacher, Bill Horpyniuk. [interjections] With a name like Sigurdson I get stuck after three syllables. I'm sure I'll do better with this one: another teacher, Rose Klapstein. [applause] It's normally the other way around: we normally welcome them. However, they're also accompanied by parent Marlene Lakusta. I would ask that they rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

MR. ISLEY: Mr. Speaker, the gentleman I'm about to introduce and ask the House to acknowledge and show their appreciation for really needs no introduction to many of us. I hope he is seated in your gallery; I can't see from



here. Mr. Don Cunningham is now on his last day of work after 21 years of faithful service to this government, most of it spent working in the Legislature Building. I ask that he stand and receive the acknowledgment of the House.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### head: GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

7. Moved by Mr. Crawford:  
Be it resolved that pursuant to Standing Order 55, Eric Musgreave, Member for Calgary McKnight, be elected as Deputy Chairman of Committees.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I move Motion 7 on the Order Paper. When passed, that will achieve the appointment of the Member for Calgary McKnight as Deputy Chairman of Committees.

[Motion carried]

### head: CONSIDERATION OF HER HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Moved by Mrs. Koper:

That an humble address be presented to Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To Her Honour the Honourable W. Helen Hunley, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Alberta:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

[Adjourned debate June 19: Dr. West]

DR. WEST: Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to debate the throne speech as well as to address this Assembly for the first time. I would like to add my congratulations on your appointment as Speaker of the House and to share in the best wishes and confidence in you shown by this whole Assembly. Not having known you in the past, this appointment demonstrates to myself the degree of your abilities, wisdom, sense of fair play and, very recently, your sense of humour. Congratulations also to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor on an excellent delivery of the throne speech. Mr. Speaker, hats off to the hon. Member for Calgary Foothills and the Member for Ponoka-Rimbey for moving and seconding the throne speech respectively with positive initiative. On May 8 everyone in this Assembly was given a mandate by their constituents. I congratulate each of you and sincerely look forward to working with you in the future.

Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of this response to the throne speech, I would like to share with you some of the reasons for my being here and my hopes for future direction for serving my constituency of Vermilion-Viking. During the nomination I gave the following quote, a statement by President Roosevelt, who said:

The only sure bulwark of continuing liberty is a government strong enough to protect the interests of the people; and a people strong enough and well enough

informed to maintain its sovereign control over its government.

That's democracy, and it's healthy.

On reflection of the above quote, Mr. Speaker, I considered that in my lifetime Canada had given me life and security and during my developmental years had educated me and then tolerated me through the growing-up phase of taking much and sometimes giving very little. In the past 15 years Vermilion-Viking and Alberta have contributed to my standard of living and the stability of my family and my future. I considered it time to give of myself to Vermilion-Viking, Alberta, and Canada by serving in this government.

Maintaining that sovereign control by the people must always be the prime concern of government. Mr. Speaker, as I address this Assembly for the first time, I pray that during the next four years all members of this Assembly, regardless of their philosophy, will work to serve the people of Alberta through government for the people by the people and that we all maintain a positive, constructive direction. I sincerely hope that.

Mr. Speaker, during the campaign the people of Vermilion-Viking — which now includes Killam, Strome, and surrounding areas, and I would like to welcome them to my constituency — strongly indicated that they would like a government with good communication on a regular basis; assurance that government does not unnecessarily intrude into the lives of Albertans; a government with strong beliefs in the private sector; and during these times of economic recession, a government to take leadership and restraint, the same restraint asked every day of Albertans and Canadians. I thank every constituent for my election, and I hope that I can fulfill their expectations expressed. I know this government will work in those directions.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to address the diversity of my constituency, Vermilion-Viking, and the impact the throne speech will have in certain areas. This throne speech, regardless of any insinuations here recently, is a great throne speech. To me, this throne speech gives Alberta a tremendous leadership role in agriculture, job creation, social programs, seniors' programs, and health care programs unmatched by anyone in this country and world and, as well, an economic diversity created through tourism, education, technology and research, energy, forestry, natural resources, trade, and municipal programs. It represents a challenge to me to ensure that Vermilion-Viking is built strongly around it.

Mr. Speaker, without a doubt, Vermilion-Viking's major industry is agriculture, bar none. It is rich in consistent grain and oilseed production, as well as having a tremendous base in the red meat industry — namely, cow/calf and feeder production — a strong base of pork production, and diversity in other agricultural products.

Agriculture has a huge impact. Seventy-five percent of the population lives within our 11 towns. This demonstrates that 25 percent or less of our population living rurally provides a great influence on the economy for the total population of 12,000. Mr. Speaker, it is important that agriculture be strong. The throne speech of this government gives priority to this industry and a beginning to future solutions through red meat stabilization programs; an overhauling of the crop insurance program; reduced input costs on fuel and fertilizer, which could stand further reduction; and a promise to look at the other variable costs. As a veterinarian for the past 20 years, I have been part of those input costs. Perhaps instead of being part of the problem,

I can now help in being part of the solution. I look forward to that commitment to my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, the Alberta farm credit stability program is the beginning of a new era of long-term fixed interest moneys in this country and in this province. We are going back to where we should have been and should not have left. No more chilling morning awakenings to 24 percent interest with uncontrolled margins. The high interest rates alone were the single greatest reason for discouraging private-sector initiative in the past, and this is a good start by this government for agriculture. A review of the role of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation is certainly a step in the right direction in sorting out the problems surrounding our lending institutions in relation to agriculture.

Over the years our agricultural resources have been exported either out of Canada or to other regions within Canada, therefore removing the potential for diversification of employment opportunities associated with those agricultural products. I will work for agriculture in hopes of bringing some of those developments back to Alberta and Vermilion-Viking. With the recent news of the Grain Transportation Agency on the Crow benefit, this change may be coming.

With new emphasis on bilateral free trade, agricultural trade, and diversification, in Vermilion-Viking I would like to see a future grain marketing system centred around the philosophies of incentive transportation and development of grain handling systems, with the ability to clean and move quickly large quantities of grain marked for export and, along with this, a diversity of industries around the by-products of such an operation, so they can be used both provincially in the cattle industry and for export. Viking has a tremendous potential in this area, having a delivery point on a high-speed railway line moving one of the major quantities of grain out of this province each year. There are private-sector people who will be willing to contribute their efforts in this direction.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see the tremendous number of paved roads developing in our constituency but would like to see as many of the secondary highways as possible brought to paved standard within the next decade. This would ensure in Vermilion-Viking and the province that our people would have a sound network to develop the industries that we certainly can create in and around Alberta agriculture. I emphasize again that it's time we brought our industry home instead of having it siphoned off to other areas of this country and abroad.

In Vermilion-Viking and this province I also see a tremendous potential for the revitalization of the red meat industry, with vision to develop new concepts in the slaughter and processing industries. This province can do it, and Vermilion-Viking is ready for that challenge.

Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to see that small business, service industries, and agribusiness will be addressed through the Alberta small business term assistance plan; \$750 million will be offered at 9 percent for 10 years. This program will be excellent in stimulating our young entrepreneurs as well as stabilizing those enduring hard economic times at the present. This saves jobs, and it creates jobs.

Mr. Speaker, our constituency is known for the longevity of its people — probably one of the main reasons I want to stay there and raise my family. Knowing the great seniors' programs coming up in the future, I want to retire there also. Viking has the highest number of senior citizens per capita in the province. All our towns share a common need for senior care. The throne speech emphasis on senior

programs is applauded and is something Vermilion-Viking will certainly need in the future.

At the present time, nursing home and extended care facilities, hospitals, senior citizen manors and lodges, coupled with a developing and expanding home care program, have been very, very generous in this province. But we see an expanding need for nursing home and extended care facilities in the corridors of life along highways 13 and 14 in the southern parts of our constituency, involving Loughheed, Sedgewick, Killam, Strome, Kinsella, and Viking.

In the northern part of the constituency, Mannville demonstrates a need for a lodge and has developed a unique concept which could lead to better utilization of our health care facilities in rural Alberta in association with our senior housing program. There is a need in the future for an in-depth study of our senior housing programs in co-ordination with our health care facilities.

With the current increase in life spans due to improved health services, which is another great plus to this government and this province, the types of housing and their support staff have changed compared to 25 years ago. This is very evident in Viking and Sedgewick lodge facilities, which have to be considered for updating and show in great areas that they're — and in other areas of the province I think some of these existing facilities have about 50 percent occupancy at the present time because of the types of philosophies behind them 25 years ago or in more recent years. The roots of rural Alberta grow deep, and rural Albertans deserve dignity in their final years. Much of that has to do with retiring, living, and dying close to their families and heritage.

Mr. Speaker, the emphasis put on the FCSS program will certainly go a long way in Vermilion-Viking toward helping the senior programs just mentioned and also in those areas where the less fortunate need compassion, understanding, and education in life skills. I reiterate once more that our social and senior programs are unmatched in this whole country, unmatched in the world.

Mr. Speaker, the recent announcements in the energy field will certainly be of some help in those areas of my constituency such as the oil patch south of Mannville, gas and oil explorations around the Loughheed and Sedgewick areas, and the gas fields of Viking and Kinsella, which supply a large percentage of Edmonton's natural gas. We must never forget that our resource industries can work synergistically with agriculture in providing jobs in surrounding areas for members of the family that wish to stay close to their home environment but cannot farm, as well as providing off-farm income during economic instability. I would like to see in Vermilion-Viking as many of our children as possible staying within close proximity of their home and relatives, if they so desire.

Mr. Speaker, the basic building block of our communities and our society is the family, and Vermilion-Viking has a tremendous strength from north to south in its family units. The ability to hold its family units together in strength is one of the major strengths of my constituency. We require jobs in our municipalities; therefore, the resource industries are of great importance in our agricultural-based constituencies. The municipal grant program, with less restrictions, will be a boost to the development of some of those jobs created. Those unconditional requirements in the recent municipal grant program are just tremendous.

Speaking of resources, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't mention Kinsella, which has one of the largest gravel reserves in North America. It serves a vast area and

could definitely use some future considerations for bringing secondary highways to a pavement standard.

Education: having come through the Canadian education system, I cherish and honour the level that Albertans and Canadians enjoy. I appreciate the input this government has given in support of all areas of education in this province. The campus of Lakeland College in Vermilion is a tribute to this government and a tremendous asset to our community. Its future development in agricultural education, trades, and technology and continual programming for retraining and upgrading is an ongoing commitment in our constituency. I point out its diversification and the fact that this is used 11 months of the year because of the programming that's available in Alberta. At the present time Lakeland College, in co-sponsorship with the Alberta Department of Culture, has arts track programming for provincial drama and dance schools going on. Also, in co-operation with the Alberta association for bright children, Lakeland runs a summer camp for gifted children — at present a full roster of 150.

My personal invitation goes out to visit this campus and see the development of a first-rate advanced education facility in this province. The new physical education building and pool expansion are examples of joint co-operation between community groups, individuals, municipal governments, and this government through the advanced education endowment fund — just an excellent program to get participation by the community. We see that the new advanced education endowment incentive fund of some \$80 million now gives the private sector some new initiatives in these directions — just excellent.

Mr. Speaker, the Vermilion Provincial Park is another tremendous asset to the area, being a first-rate facility for tourists travelling through Alberta. Its setting on the banks of the Vermilion river provides a beautiful relief to the surrounding agricultural prairie. The usage of this park for our winter sports programs is also invaluable and provides attraction for cross-country skiers across this province.

The emphasis on tourism in the throne speech is welcomed in Vermilion-Viking. It represents the gateway to the northern lakes and tourist developments. I endorse this strong commitment in the future to tourism. There is absolutely no doubt whatsoever that in the northeast quadrant in our constituency tourism is and will be a major industry, with the potential for development beyond none. Those untapped resources we have in our northern areas are just unbelievable.

With the bilateral trade agreements that are under way, I think our future will see better relations with many of the bordering countries — just one that I know of — and tourism will be an industry that they will be looking at in exchange also.

I would be remiss if, following this endorsement, I did not mention the railway crossing on Highway 41 through Vermilion. I haven't made many references to little pet peeves, but this one has to be brought out. This railway crossing, which is consistently blocked by lengthy trains for periods in excess of 20 minutes several times a day, not only frustrates the tourists, but it's causing health care problems to our local population as blood pressures rise and fall every day. Mr. Speaker, we sincerely hope that in the future we can work out a solution to this with both the federal and provincial transportation departments.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, one of the strong points of this throne speech is that it addresses the future with positive and hope-filled direction. The youth of our province must

have this type of leadership. Again, one of the major reasons that I entered public life from private life — I have a family of four at home, and many times I have sat around in a negative approach discussing what the government has been doing, what the future holds, and what we are going to do about it. I sat one morning and looked at my children, and I said, "What can they expect in this country if all those around them take negative and indirect approaches to solving the problems and creating a positive and hope-filled future?" No one denies that there are problems in this world, but I reject the philosophy that nothing can be done.

I look forward to working hard for the Vermilion-Viking constituency compatibly and in communication with the rest of the constituencies in this province to build a strong, healthy Alberta, the best place in the world that I know to live. I will be very pleased to work with this Assembly in all of our endeavours.

Thank you.

MRS. MIROSH: Mr. Speaker, it is with pride and honour that I address this distinguished 21st Legislative Assembly for the first time. I stand here with the greatest appreciation to be able to take part in this role and to participate in the function of this Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on your victory in this recent election and on your appointment as Speaker of this House. We as Calgarians are very proud of you, and I especially am proud of you, as you live in my constituency. We also border one another: Calgary Glenmore and Calgary Egmont. Mr. Speaker, I'd be glad to help you and your constituents any time that you are unable to do so.

I'd also like to congratulate you, Mr. Deputy Speaker from Lethbridge West, on your appointment. I'd like to recognize Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor and thank her for the Speech from the Throne and her continued service to this province. My colleague from Calgary Foothills did an excellent job of moving the throne speech and my colleague from Ponoka-Rimbey in seconding the motion. Much to my colleagues' chagrin, I did not speak to previous motions put forth to this Assembly, as I believe that my speech should be true to form and remain truly maiden. My male colleagues probably don't worry about those delicate matters.

I wish to extend my congratulations to all of you in this Assembly and especially those, like myself who are here for the first time. To all my constituents in Calgary Glenmore, a personal thank you for electing me to this 21st Assembly. I will represent you to the best of my ability, listen to your concerns, and make every effort to make your voices heard. Calgary Glenmore is probably one of the most unique constituencies in the province of Alberta. I have resided there for 20 years and have observed a great deal of change. Calgary Glenmore is surrounded by the Glenmore Reservoir, which is fed by the Elbow River. The Glenmore Reservoir is unique in itself as it has one of the finest sailing schools in North America. The city of Calgary operates the sailing school every summer and teaches hundreds of children sailing techniques and the safety of water. It also provides many, many jobs for our youth.

Glenmore has the luxury of one of the finest tourist attractions in the city of Calgary: Heritage Park. Heritage Park houses our Alberta historical village and provides authentic exhibits bringing the early 1900s to life. You can climb aboard an antique train. You can ride a stern-wheeler on the waters of Glenmore Reservoir. Where else in Alberta

can you do that? There are more than 100 restored buildings and exhibits set in 66 acres of rolling parkland. Last year there were over 6,500 people attending Heritage Park. This area also provides many, many jobs for our youth.

Recreation has become a focus of our constituency, with the province of Alberta providing matching grants to our community centres and to the city of Calgary, who developed one of the best leisure centres in the world. The Southland Leisure Centre provides a giant wave pool for those of all ages, providing another very major tourist attraction. The sports facilities include year-round skating, hockey, lacrosse, racquetball, squash, gymnastic activities, weight training facilities, and so on. It also provides senior activities and, most important, quality day care. Just recently I was able to take part and watch the second national rhythmic gymnastic competition at this centre. I was most enthused for the young people. Once again, this facility provides year-round jobs for our youth.

Also in my constituency, concentrating on recreation, is a family YMCA providing programs for all ages. The south Y was built in 1963 and has a network of over 200 volunteers. It is especially outstanding for youth leadership and development programs. It also has a quality day care facility. Further recreation and cultural activities in my constituency [are provided by] the Calgary Jewish Centre. The Jewish Centre opened its doors in 1979. This centre was accomplished in partnership with the assistance of the MCR government grant for capital costs. The centre has become well known for its services to families, again providing quality day care programs, fitness, services for seniors and, most important, cultural programs. This centre serves 900 families and 800 individuals. There are five major communities in my constituency providing numerous activities for children, adults, seniors, and day care. The network of volunteers is insurmountable.

My constituency has 19 elementary and junior high schools feeding into two major high schools. One of the public high schools, Henry Wise Wood, awarded 131 students the Alexander Rutherford scholarship awards. Ten students from Glenmore in postsecondary education were awarded Louise McKinney scholarships. One student was awarded the Wilfrid R. May scholarship for graduate work. Only three of these awards were presented in the province of Alberta. We are very, very proud of our schools and our children attending them. We have very high quality. Henry Wise Wood has always remained in the top three of all the high schools in Alberta. The second high school, the Bishop Grandin high school, also provides one of the highest standards of education in this province; it is within the Roman Catholic school system.

My constituency is also unique in that it has 4,000 senior citizens. There are three major private nursing homes — the Chinook with 149 beds, the Beverly nursing home with 184 beds, and the Mayfair nursing home with 142 beds — a Trinity Lodge; one long-term care hospital, the Glenmore Auxiliary, with 200 beds; and a new 550-bed active treatment hospital, the Rockyview general hospital. The official opening of phase one will be July 18, 1986.

I certainly welcomed the hon. Minister for Social Services's statement announcing government support for Senior Citizens Week in Alberta. The seniors of the province are deserving of continued acknowledgment and attention from our society and their government. These are the people who helped build our province and the communities it is comprised of. Our seniors have contributed to giving Alberta one of the highest standards of living in the world. The

numerous community services for our seniors need continued support by our government. The increase in home care funding contained in the throne speech re-affirms this direction. Other programs such as day care hospital services, as those provided by the Glenmore Auxiliary hospital, also fulfill their objectives, for individuals whose conditions require care for 24 hours a day must be given the best for their continued quality of life. This care is provided by lodges, nursing homes, and auxiliary hospitals.

The new Nursing Homes Act and the pilot test of a new assessment and placement program are evident of our government's concern and support. New facilities of current centres such as the Rockyview general hospital demonstrate our commitment to the quality of health care in this province. The acknowledgment in the throne speech of providing the highest quality of health care is truly recognized in the new Rockyview general hospital in my constituency under the management of hospital district 93. This hospital will contain services equipped to handle 80,000 visits per year. This service boasts the largest number of certified specialists in Canada. There will be a continuing excellent reputation to provide medical and surgical programs offering diabetic care and a 24-bed day surgical hospital. There will be a further expansion from 10 to 32 pediatric beds in phase two. An obstetrical program with 88 beds will also open in phase two in 1988, and this will be the largest in Calgary. In 1988 there will be a neonatal intensive care unit specializing in care for the newborn.

A provision for mental health programs will emphasize a strong working relationship within the community. The Lions eye bank of Alberta is also housed at the Rockyview hospital, and I had the privilege of presenting a cheque to them from the Wild Rose Foundation for their very excellent volunteer programs. Further services include a 32-bed rehabilitation unit, a speech department, a state-of-the-art intensive care unit, a cardiac care unit, and diagnostic services. Further diagnostic testing services include one of the best labs in Alberta, which is fully computerized and has a CAT scanner, digital angiography, and nuclear medicine. All services will be the most modern anywhere. This hospital has created employment for 1,350 full-time personnel, or 1,600 to 1,700 employees including part-time staff. Summer youth employment would also be included in this number.

I take pride in reviewing with you these services provided by the Rockyview hospital, as it provided me with my first employment in the city of Calgary as a registered nurse. I also take pride in reviewing the long-term care services provided to our seniors, as I've spent the last eight years on a hospital board working to improve the quality of care for our seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I am duly proud of the government's announcement in the throne speech relating to job creation for Alberta, including youth programs. As I have already mentioned, areas in my constituency are providing jobs for youth as well as many youth programs. I will work with my colleagues to improve these training programs and to educate our youth to ensure them more jobs, to give them direction in their postsecondary education to the areas where employment is needed.

The throne speech recognized the promotion of increased participation by women in the area of employment by providing training and development opportunities. This government recognizes special employment needs of women and promotes equality for women. As a woman and as a Member of the 21st Legislative Assembly, my colleagues have already proven to me that women have equal rights. I had to buy my own lunch.

However, it is satisfying for me to know that I was duly elected on the merits of my proven performance and abilities, not because I'm a woman. I would feel very cheated or feel that I may have cheated somebody else out of a job if I ever received any job or distinction because I'm a woman and not because of my abilities and willingness to work.

Mr. Speaker, I am an employer and all my employees — 100 percent of them — are women. My constituency is comprised of many individuals who are in the energy industry and welcome the government's announcement of revitalizing the industry. A very important announcement is the Alberta small business term assistance plan, which is also very welcome to my constituents. All of these programs were part of my election platform. Many of my constituents are entrepreneurs and take pride in the province's input to providing a free-enterprise system and wish it to continue.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the years of hard work and the long hours spent by the retired M.L.A., the hon. Hugh Planche, the past Minister of Economic Development. His hard work and many, many hours in this government provided my constituents with what they have. And I really understand now the number of hours that it takes to provide good work for this government. Prior to Mr. Planche, the M.L.A. representing my constituency was the hon. Bill Dickie, who was the past energy minister. I have a gigantic challenge ahead to retain the high quality my past colleagues left my constituents.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to promise my constituents continued liaison with this government. And as representatives of this government, we must constantly listen to our constituents' concerns. It is vital that the people of Alberta realize that they are the government, and their constant input is important to the decision-making process of our government. With the help of my colleagues, to the best of our ability it is my intention to provide the people of my constituency and this province with the best government.

Thank you.

MR. PIQUETTE: Mr. Speaker, as the new Member for Athabasca-Lac La Biche, I feel privileged and honoured, as a bilingual Canadian, to address this historical Assembly of the province of Alberta, an address to the Speech from the Throne. Created in 1905, Alberta, along with Saskatchewan, was formed out of The North West Territories Act of 1870, amended in 1874, '75, and 1891, finally being incorporated as a province in 1905.

I would like to congratulate the selection of our new Speaker, and I look forward to working with him. I would also like to thank the electors of Athabasca-Lac La Biche for showing the confidence in electing a New Democrat for the first time. For rural Albertans, it is very difficult to elect an opposition member, because they fear that when they elect a rural M.L.A. on the opposition side, they may not get the government services and rural building programs, et cetera, they can get if a government person is on their side. But they had the courage in Athabasca-Lac La Biche to vote for the better party and the best man, and I congratulate them.

Today I'll be addressing this Assembly in both English and French. I do this not as a privilege but as a right that I hope this Assembly will recognize. Citing historical doc-

uments, section 110 of the North West Territories Act assented to on September 10, 1891, and never repealed by the Alberta Act of 1905 states:

Either the English or the French language may be used by any person in the debates of the Legislative Assembly of the Territories and in the proceedings before the courts; and both those languages shall be used in the records and journals of such Assembly . . .

Furthermore, in the Alberta Act of 1905, section 35 clearly states:

The provisions of The British North America Acts, 1867 to 1886, shall apply to the Province of Alberta in the same way and to the like extent as they apply to the provinces heretofore comprised in the Dominion . . .

It can be further argued, by section 15 of the Alberta Act, 1905, that this language right has never been extinguished in Alberta, and I quote:

Except as otherwise provided by this Act, all laws (including the provisions of The North West Territories Act and the amendments thereto, notwithstanding the repeal thereof by this Act), and all orders and regulations made thereunder, and all courts of civil and criminal jurisdiction, and all commissions, powers, authorities and functions, and all officers and functionaries, judicial, administrative and ministerial, existing immediately before the coming into force of this Act in the territory hereby established as the Province of Alberta, shall continue in the said province . . .

The Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism also seemed to come to the same conclusion in section 10 of the report, *The Law of Languages in Canada*.

If additional proof is needed that section 110 of the North-West Territories Act . . . and introducing section 11, was not repealed as regards the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Consequently, on the basis of the foregoing analysis and of our opinion that French was never legally abolished in the legislature of the Northwest Territories, we believe that as of September 1, 1905, the law of Alberta and Saskatchewan provided for the use of either English or French, not only in the debates of the Legislative Assembly of each province but also in all proceedings before the courts and required that both languages be used in the records and journals of the provincial legislatures . . .

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that this is an historic day in the Alberta Legislature. According to research that I have carried out and for other people who have checked the records, I believe that I am the first French/English member whose native tongue is French to address the Alberta or Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly since 1905, citing this right to speak in English or French as a right in this Assembly and not simply a privilege. I do this not to inflame passions in those who argue that I am trying to ram French down their throats but that French, as an official language of Canada and one of the founding languages of Canada and the Northwest Territories, should be respected and encouraged. The beauty of this great Canada is that we respect human dignity and historical and cultural rights in a democratic context. Our forefathers fought and died for these rights to be respected.

Aujourd'hui je suis fier comme canadien-français de vous adresser la parole en français. Je ne regarde pas cela comme un privilège mais comme un droit. Avant de commencer, je veux remercier ma famille, les électeurs de la circonscription d'Athabasca-Lac La Biche pour leur confiance dans

ma candidature. Je peux leur garantir mes efforts sincères de travailler pour tous leurs besoins. Aux franco-albertains, comme député je veux souligner et applaudir les efforts des franco-albertains d'avoir soutenu leurs aspirations et leurs rêves, d'être capable de vivre comme canadiens-français ici en Alberta. Nos droits comme franco-albertains n'ont pas toujours été respectés dans le passé. Encore aujourd'hui l'acte scolaire de l'Alberta ne respecte pas nos droits comme peuple fondateur.

Mais je suis optimiste. Je crois que comme canadiens-français nous sommes proches de réaliser nos droits et nos visions même ici en Alberta. N'abandonner pas la lutte quand la victoire est si proche! C'est pour cela qu'aujourd'hui j'ai choisi ce moment historique pour indiquer fortement que comme un député canadien-français dans l'Assemblée législative de l'Alberta, j'assume mes droits selon l'article 110 des statuts de Northwest Territories Act de 1891. Je crois que ces droits sont encore en vigueur dans l'Assemblée législative de l'Alberta en 1986. Selon mes recherches, un député a le droit de parler en français ou en anglais dans l'Assemblée législative de l'Alberta ou du Saskatchewan. Ce n'est pas un privilège comme plusieurs ont pensé.

C'est temps que nous retrouvons notre dignité et notre fierté comme canadiens-français en reconnaissant nos droits que nous avons cru perdus dans le passé. Dans l'avenir, je vais continuer de vous adresser la parole en français dans cette Assemblée législative, et j'ai confiance que ces droits seront respectés dans cette chambre.

I thank you for listening to me in French. I consider it a great privilege to do this as the Member for Athabasca-Lac La Biche. Historically, the people of Athabasca-Lac La Biche have voted in a number of people of French/English background over the years. I am not the only one that has been elected from that part of the country. We have always lived as a community out there, respecting French, English, Ukrainian, Indian, the various cultural groups of this country who have moved into the great area of the constituency of Athabasca-Lac La Biche, respecting the rights to be ourselves, to be proud of our heritage, and to be proud of who we are as individuals.

The basis of good government must be the respect of human dignity in its policies and implementation. We can judge the greatness of a society or a civilization by how compassionately it treats its weakest and defenseless member. Every individual must feel self-worth. Using that yardstick, we as individuals must feel appreciated, successful, and productive in order to maintain our positive self-esteem. If this is true for us as individuals, then this is also true as a people or as a society. That is why I feel that these governments, in Alberta and Ottawa and the former Liberal government in Ottawa, have failed in their social, economic, and agricultural policies. They very often left the defenseless, unprotected members of our society to not feel proud of themselves to be a people or to be an individual having their right to human dignity and self-esteem. Even though the policies of the governments may have been well intentioned, I want to point out today what I consider we should do as government and why I stand here today as a proud New Democrat.

We often hear the Conservatives and Liberals say that they are pro business, pro farming, and for free enterprise, and they threw out the words during election time that we as New Democrats are antibusiness, antifarming, and anti-competition. I used to believe this, just like you. For most of my life I have been, I'm sorry to admit, either a Conservative or a Liberal in my politics. However, through

my many years of experience as a school principal — by the way, Mr. West from Vermilion, I was a school principal in Vermilion elementary for a number of years and then here in Edmonton, in the county of Leduc, and in Beaumont, just a few miles away — as a small businessman who struggled to begin his business from scratch here in the city of Edmonton and in other cities of Calgary, Vancouver, and Winnipeg, as a writer of business publications, as someone who has knocked heads with the corporate sector over many years, and as a struggling beginning farmer of approximately five years who took over the family farm, I have come to change my political belief. And I will explain to you why I have.

The rest of my speech is basically from the heart. I haven't prepared it because I thought I would talk about the things I have learned through my days of being a businessman and farmer and in my travels and studies. I have not come to this side of the House because I thought it would be easy; I came to this side of the House because I thought, after talking with Grant Notley and with a lot of so-called free-enterprise, pro-business types, that this party offered the best solutions to the small business sector and the agricultural sector of Alberta and to the many unprivileged people of this province.

I remember that as struggling businessmen, my brother-in-law and myself started a publishing company in 1977 here in Edmonton. We were fortunate that we got the Edmonton Commonwealth Games publication for the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce for the year 1978. We had done a number of university publications. When my brother-in-law approached the banks to look for advice, we were basically laughed at. When we turned to government for advice, except for lip service basically there was nothing for my brother-in-law and myself to help start up as a small business. Anyway we struggled and somehow survived from a very small beginning.

For those people of Edmonton and Calgary who may have travelled to Vancouver, we published business directories; with the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, the Commerce News; the Better Business Bureau Blue Book of Edmonton, if you recall that, which was a consumer publication to better inform the buying public of being wise consumers. We published this, and it was distributed free of charge to every home in the Edmonton area and northern Alberta. We did the same thing in Calgary and Vancouver. I was a writer; I was an interviewer. I worked with large business, and I saw a lot of the inequities that we have in our present system of government, both Liberal and Conservative, that pay lip service to small business but give all the goodies to the large corporate sector.

I would point out some of the facts. We look at small business in Alberta; 85 percent of small business fails within the first five years. That's an astounding statistic. If anyone has gone through a personal bankruptcy, you may say, "We're simply eliminating some of the weaklings out there." But are 85 percent of small businesses weaklings, or is it based on a system which is meant to fail to begin with? I look at the system, not the individual businessman, as being the problem when such statistics are out there.

There is more chance to be a success with money you have in your pocket to invest if you head straight to Las Vegas and put your money down on the table. You have a better chance of return on that money than a small businessman has to survive in the province of Alberta. Now there is something wrong with that kind of system.

I will tell you why our system is bankrupt. I have travelled in other countries and seen and listened to the small business

policies in other countries. I'm not talking North America, because in North America we have failed to address the real issues. Where are jobs being created today? Are they being created in the large corporate sector, or are they created by small business? I'll tell you one thing; 72 percent of jobs are created by the small business sector. In the large corporate sector it is a declining employment picture, because what the government policies of Canada and Alberta have done is allowed, through an unfair taxation system foisted upon the small businessman, favouring the large corporate sector, that they can amalgamate; they can monopolize. When they monopolize and amalgamate, they simply lay off more and more workers. Instead of creating employment by the kind of giveaways we're giving to the corporate sector, we are actually eliminating jobs.

Take a look in the oil industry, which the hon. Member for Westlock-Sturgeon I'm quite sure is very well aware of. In this recession, without a floor price in the oil and gas sector, what it is creating with the giveaways that the large corporations are able to take advantage of — and by the way, there is \$800 million worth in the budget. The large, multinational corporations are just waiting for his company shares to go down to sweet tweet so they can pick up the company, and all the hard work he put in to discover this oil in Alberta they will simply gobble up as their own portfolio. That is why we need to have protection of prices in this system, because the only advantage there is when we do not protect people who cannot protect themselves, whether it be the farmer or the small producers, is that we allow the rich to get richer and the poor to get poorer.

One thing I found out as a small businessman: if I had to borrow money, I always had to borrow money at the top end of the interest ladder. Do you know how the large corporations borrow their money? They put their shares on the open market and get their money sometimes at four or five or pay nothing if they can't pay their shareholders. How can a small businessman compete against a large corporation when the money he needs to operate with is at such an unfair disadvantage? This is why the New Democrats in our election platform said, "Let's provide small business loans at 6 percent, because in order for them to be effectively competing against the large corporations in this province, they do need some kind of advantage."

Another aspect of the small business policy that we don't have in this province is that when you go to banks as a beginning businessman, there's little help in terms of helping work out cash flows, market analyses, et cetera. There is nothing the small businessman has to help him plan, to make sure he has a better chance as a businessman to survive in today's economy. The big corporations have the money to buy the most expensive consultants their money can buy, but the small businessman cannot hire the consultants to advise him on proper business solutions.

Another policy of our party which I feel is very much for small business is that we believe that at the credit union and the Treasury Branch, at the banking level, we must have available to the small businessman expertise to help him get on his feet, to provide consultancies, and to help the small businessman to be educated in terms of cash flow problems and so on and so forth. We call this a small business incubator program, which is basically to incubate ideas and to help the small businessman develop and grow at the local level. I can tell you that to get hold of a government or business consultant in Edmonton is a service that a small businessman never has a chance to get in rural Alberta. So our policies are for all Albertans.

When I was in business, I felt that at least I had some rights as a small businessman. At least I had the ability, when I published this publication, to tell my customer that my cost of production was \$2 for this book and that I was going to put it on sale to the public at \$3 a book. I didn't simply ask how much they were willing to give me. When I came to the farm, however — by the way, the only time a businessman sells below cost is basically when he is going bankrupt and he's liquidating all of his assets. But any businessman in order to survive must always calculate in the cost of his product that he sells the cost of production and a fair rate of return on his investment.

With that analogy, I come now to the agricultural policies of this province. My father was 74 years old, and he gave me a call and said, "You're the last son out of five in the family, and you said you might be interested in taking over the family farm." I was tired of being in the corporate sector, and I always thought I wanted to put my roots back into rural Alberta where I was born and raised on a dairy farm, working many hours — as people who were raised on a dairy farm know — from 6 o'clock in the morning to 9 o'clock, 365 days a year. I enjoy nature, so I told my father, "Yes, I will take over the family farm."

As a beginning farmer, I heard that there was an ADC program. I applied, and I said that I had money from the sale of my business. I applied for \$25,000 at low interest rates, because back in '82 the rates were around 18 to 21 percent. They laughed at me. They said: "You mean to tell me you're only trying to borrow \$25,000? We'll send a consultant out there. We'll take a look at your operation, but if you want to be a full-time farmer, you need much more than \$25,000." They came down. I had three quarters of land. I was planning basically to buy cattle, start very conservatively, and build myself up. They advised me that they were willing to give me \$150,000 if I bought five additional quarters and bought 100 cows. I took one look at them and from my business experience I said, "Sir, how will I pay for that?" "You have five years at low interest rates." "What happens after that?" "Oh, it climbs up to the market rate."

As a beginning struggling businessman, I can imagine that I'll be able to pay this \$150,000 with no trouble at all, taking a look at my costs of production and the price I'm able to market my product. "Well, we're doing that all the time. If you want to start farming, you've got to be serious." I said: "I am serious. I am saying no to your program." Because it's set up to basically — after I talked to a number of beginning farmers or friends in my constituency, they said it was a trap. Many of them were already facing the trap. They were already in, because their five years were over and suddenly the interest rates were up to the 14 percent range.

Going back to the fact that I feel that the Tories and the Liberals always seem to identify agriculture as a business, I dare you to tell me that agriculture is run as a business in this country. If a businessman is in business, like the analogy I said before, you should have the right as a businessman, and you do have the right as a businessman, to charge a price for your product that will take into account your cost of production and also your investment. The Public Utilities Board of Alberta guarantees 15 percent profit for TransAlta. Why aren't I as a farmer guaranteed 15 percent return to my money regardless of how I spend money?

As a farmer I have to gamble against interest rates — which, I guess, now will be 9 percent; at least that's

predictable — and I've got to gamble against weather at the end of the year. I produce 100 calves or 100,000 bushels, and I have to go out there and say, "How much will you give me, and how much will you take, please, sir?" That is not free enterprise. In business you are able to decide how much money and how much product you're going to produce in order to meet your market. The farmer is totally the victim of the system. He doesn't know what kind of market he has to address and what kind of prices he will get for that product. This system has got to change if we want to save the family farm.

Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Before the Chair recognizes the Member for Bow Valley, might we revert to introduction of guests?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**  
(*reversion*)

MR. MUSGREAVE: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure today to be able to introduce to you, and through you to the Assembly, 61 students from St. Bede elementary school in Calgary McKnight. These students are accompanied by their teachers and parents. Some of the names will be difficult for me to pronounce, but I hope the parents and teachers will bear with me. I've been here in this Assembly for 11 years, and my name is still mispronounced sometimes.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, the teachers are Mr. Smith and Mr. Willott; the parents, Mrs. Calvitti, Mrs. deMello, Mrs. Mansulino, Mrs. Coderre, Mrs. Morrow, Mrs. Chian-dottoi, Miss Lee, Mrs. Puhl, Mrs. Manna, and Mrs. Savard. I would ask them to rise and receive the welcome of the House.

head: **CONSIDERATION OF HER HONOUR  
THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SPEECH**  
(*continued*)

MR. MUSGROVE: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to make a few remarks on the throne speech. First, I would like to congratulate all the new members and say welcome to the Legislative Assembly. I'd also like to congratulate all the other members on their re-election. I would like to congratulate you on your new position, Mr. Speaker, as well as all the other appointments that were made recently.

Mr. Speaker, the Bow Valley constituency is basically made up of agriculture and energy. There were some initiatives in the throne speech that were certainly a benefit to Bow Valley. The Alberta farm stabilization program and the small business loan program were like a mirage to the people. Now they know that it is real, and they are awaiting the chance to apply.

Farm costs have dropped. Along with the facts of the benefit of the 9 percent interest rate, we have lower fuel prices, that have taken place within the last year on the initiative of the Alberta government, the fertilizer rebate and, of course, the safety net of insurance for all farm commodities. But even with the reduction in farm input costs, everyone recognizes that lower commodity prices are going to make agriculture a hard squeeze in the near future.

One of the things in farm input costs that hasn't reduced is the cost of farm machinery and farm machinery repairs.

They have increased, almost doubled, in the 1980s, and I understand that there will be another 12 percent increase on at least some farm machinery in the very near future. A person would almost think that the marketplace would look after those types of increases, but it appears that if a machine dealer can sell one tractor for the price of two, he only needs to sell one. The alternative to buying new machinery is to repair the old machinery, but machine repairs have become very, very expensive and also hard to get. I suspect that part of the reason they're hard to get is because of the high cost of inventory by our machine dealers. So if you need a machine repaired, you generally have to bring it in from some distant place, and of course the transportation costs on it then get to be another factor.

Mr. Speaker, Bow Valley has quite a lot of irrigation. The headworks irrigation program that has been in place for some time and is slated to end in 1995 has been a benefit to Bow Valley. We do have some programs that have been approved and are still in place, namely one that is very important right now, the east branch irrigation canal from the dam in Bassano to Lake Newell. In the past three years we have not had a crisis in the supply of irrigation water, but we came very, very close to a crisis each one of those years. Quite often during the high irrigation season of the summer when there are heavy rains in the mountains, there is water in the Bow River that we would be able to use if we had the facilities to transport it from the Bassano dam to Lake Newell, which is our main off-river supply. But at a cost of \$19,000 to rebuild this canal, the irrigation district board is looking forward to the announcement of that funding.

Mr. Speaker, I heard just in the last few minutes from the Member for Athabasca-Lac La Biche and the other night from the Member for Edmonton Highlands that their party would like to see parity prices in farm products. I have heard this many times. What is parity price? As I understand it, parity price is the cost of production plus a reasonable profit. What is the cost of production? Who's going to set the cost of production? Is it going to be set by some of our better economic farmers? Is it going to be the farmer that is having problems staying in the economics, or is it going to be set by someone who lives in Edmonton and lives completely off the farm? What is a reasonable profit? Is a reasonable profit 10 percent to a good economic operator or 10 percent to a poor operator, or is it 25 percent? Some of our farmers today are able to cover the cost of production plus a reasonable profit. Is that the basis where we have parity prices?

The other night the Member for Edmonton Highlands was recommending somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$6 or \$7 a bushel for wheat, with comparable prices for all other cereal grains. What are we going to do with this grain after we buy it? Are we going to dump it on the world market at less than cost, or are we going to keep it? Where's the money going to come from to pay for this type of program? The thing that really concerns me about it is, what's going to happen to the red meat industry in Alberta? If you've got feed grains at parity prices, that's probably going to say that barley will be at \$4 a bushel. Right now our feedlots are losing money, with barley at about \$1.50 a bushel or less. They either will go out of business or else we will have to subsidize the red meat industry.

Every day out of the Bow Valley constituency there are semi loads of what we call swinging beef — they are sides — leaving Lakeside Packers into Vancouver. Without that market Lakeside won't survive. If we were to impose a



large subsidy on our feedlots, there would be a tariff on that slaughter beef going into the United States. What I'm saying is that the United States market for that would be closed like a guillotine and probably just as permanently. We can't afford to lose our United States market. So what do we do then, if we lose the United States market?

We have controlled production. Canadian consumers enjoy the cheapest food in the world compared to other countries. I think 16 cents out of the average dollar of take-home pay goes for food, and there are very few tax dollars involved in that food production. In Alberta you pay for your food at the grocery store. In some countries you pay for it at the grocery store, and you also pay for it in your tax dollars. Mr. Speaker, the Bow Valley farmers would like to see us look for the best possible market price for our farm products, but they want that to be a real price. They don't want it to be a price that is supported with subsidies. They don't want to control production, and they're prepared to carry on with the programs that the Alberta government now has in place until the commodity prices improve.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make a few remarks about some other concerns in my constituency. One of them is education. In a rural, sparsely settled constituency some of our schools have a very small student population, and because of the way our grants are focussed on student population they have a problem trying to survive. We have to recognize that students — particularly those in elementary, grades 1 to 6; and I would also include junior in that — have to ride over 50 miles on a school bus, and I think we should have a look at some kind of a subsidy to operate a small school with a small student population. These students generally are not against multiple-grade classrooms. They realize that when you live in a remote area there are some hardships you have to bear because you live there. But I think we should be looking at some type of subsidy of some of those schools in our very remote areas.

One other thing I'd like to mention, Mr. Speaker, is the Brooks campus of the Medicine Hat junior college. It's been operating for some five or six years. It's in a building in Brooks that's referred to as the old hospital building. About three years ago approximately 60 acres of land were donated by a former mayor of Medicine Hat, Mr. Harry Veiner, to build a new junior college building at Brooks. At that time the number of students in the junior college was not significant to warrant that, but recently it has increased at quite a rapid pace. I was through the college several times during this spring, and I found that their classrooms were quite crowded. The laboratory they had there was very, very insignificant as compared to some of our smaller high schools. We are hoping that we will get funding for a building for the Brooks junior college campus in the very near future.

We have three hospitals in Bow Valley, Mr. Speaker. One of them is a small 10-bed hospital in Empress, but they don't have a doctor. I have discussed this with a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. We have quite a few applications from people to become a doctor in Empress, but most of them are new to Alberta and don't quite meet all the qualifications to be working in a lone position in an area, so the college is going to see whether they can't go through this file and find someone that they can accept as a doctor in Empress.

Bassano has a hospital. It was only an active treatment hospital, but in 1985 they applied for and were granted an auxiliary and nursing home district. It does not have any auxiliary or nursing home beds, and it is in desperate need

of some. It also is badly in need of some renovations that have been approved but haven't taken place yet, particularly in the emergency ward. I was talking to the chairman of the Bassano hospital board only this morning, and they're quite concerned about that. Brooks has a comparatively new hospital and is well supplied with active treatment beds, but it also is short of auxiliary hospital beds and has an application in that we hope will be approved in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, the oil and gas or energy industry in my area is pretty slow right now. These people are not blaming anyone for it. They say it's something that the times have brought about, particularly because of world oil prices, but they are anticipating an improvement. The new incentives that were announced recently have sparked some activities in the oil business, but a lot of them are patiently awaiting the 9 percent interest so that they at least can reduce some of their costs.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the people of Bow Valley for their confidence in re-electing me, and I would like to say that regardless of their political thoughts I will represent them all equally.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REV. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I thank God that among the many gifts in creation, together with thought and action she has given us the gift of language, of speech, of communication, and of debate. In fact someone said, Mr. Speaker, that in the beginning was the word. I commit to you that at the beginning of this, my time in this Assembly. I shall endeavour to speak with words carefully chosen and clearly articulated. For though we may at times unwittingly contribute to the clamour of a Tower of Babel either in this Chamber or in the multimedia confusion of our society, we all ought at all times to strive to refine the tongues of fire as they flare in the debate and formulation of public policy in this province.

Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor has enabled the debate in this 21st Session of the Legislature to begin by her words in the Speech from the Throne — in which throne of course, Mr. Speaker, you are now sitting. I commend you for taking up the honour and authority that lies in that throne, that allows you to enable the effective flow of words, to lead to the best actions for the people of Alberta.

I say these things to you, and through you to the members of this Assembly, because I know that we are not only people of the word but also that you, dear Reverend Sir, and I are both men of the cloth, having had somewhat similar training in, ordination in, and ministry in the Anglican Church of Canada, that we are both imbued with a deep respect for the Word become incarnate, the word in action, which faithfully works for the increase of love and justice throughout all creation.

There are still some who say that the Anglican Church of Canada is really nothing more than the Conservative Party at prayer, and what with recent events in this province it is quite apparent that, yes, the Conservative Party is indeed in need of a lot of prayer. But I would rather describe the Anglican Church like parliamentary democracy itself, to be, as in the words from the play, *A Man For All Seasons*, the fair flower of English compromise. I trust, Mr. Speaker, that neither you nor I nor any member of this Assembly with our various powers will not be compromised or will not be complacent until love and justice is fully exhibited in this Chamber and throughout this

province; that is to say, until the wild rose of Alberta has come fully to bloom.

There would be some who say that the wild rose, however, has already begun to fade. These critics may rightfully have pointed out that the nonrenewable resources upon which so much of contemporary Alberta has relied, both in economics and politics, can no longer solely be relied upon. What then becomes so essential is a sense of renewal, of renewing the earth, renewing this province, enabling for the people of this province the possibilities of finding renewal in themselves. For we are not in a nonrenewable province, despite the fact that we might have a few nonrenewable political parties.

Her Majesty the Lieutenant Governor in the Speech from the Throne to open this 21st Legislature did not utter the word "renewal" once. It is the sins of omission, Mr. Speaker, which are often the most deadly. I tried to at least look for the concept and found instead words such as "incentives," "programs," and "adjustments." But renewal as the overriding and the undergirding principle of approach to public policy in this province is just not here. What is here is well-intentioned neoconservative scrambling for the life boats, a vision based on social Darwinism where, yes, the fittest may survive if they can make it through the jungle.

I was elected in Edmonton Centre on May 8, because among other things people were thirsting for fresh, new, vigorous public officials and, yes, they were longing for a sense of renewal. Many people, as we know, did not vote, largely because their sense of renewal has not and is not being satisfied by politicians, so they have turned elsewhere. I spent about as much time discussing the merits of voting for me as I did discussing the merits of voting at all, with so many people at the door. That should tell us something hon. members. But when the votes did come in, I saw in numbers what I had felt inside, that the significant difference was that people wanted some sense of vision, some sense of the future, some hope that perhaps the possibilities of renewal might lie out there somewhere and that, yes, this time we're going to try it with the New Democrats.

It was really something, Mr. Speaker, when you stop to think about it. Here I was, unlike some other members, my first time out. Not a native-born Albertan, I grew up close to a town where one of my constituents, Wayne Gretzky, also grew up. I'm not a lawyer, not an oil analyst, not a successful entrepreneur. I was instead going up against a popular cabinet minister — of course, we know that all cabinet ministers are popular — against an incumbent who was experienced, who was aristocratic, and who must have outspent me at least threefold in the campaign. Yet something tipped the balance. I believe it was because the electorate saw in me, as they saw in other New Democrats, some freshness, some more ideas and imagination to be the party of greater possibilities for renewal from within, for confidence in the renewable resources of Alberta, which of course are the people of Alberta.

So as the hon. Member for Edmonton Centre, Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to my constituency. I've been waiting so long to do that. While hon. members are here in Edmonton Centre, if you have any problems, please go and see the Clerk. If satisfaction is not guaranteed there, then perhaps I could help. It would be my pleasure over the next four years to take hon. members to lunch at the many fine restaurants we have in Edmonton Centre.

AN HON. MEMBER: Are you buying?

REV. ROBERTS: It's about lunchtime. Yes, I would buy. The best omelettes au champignon in town are over at the YWCA cafeteria for only \$2.25. The most delicious Vietnamese soups are in many restaurants along 107th Avenue. Of course, for you senior cabinet ministers and Executive Council types, there's always the dining room at the Four Seasons. I see they're probably there already.

Mr. Speaker, we do not even have to go out of our offices to meet Edmonton Centre people, for a lot of them work right here with us, and they belong to the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees. I could always tell when I knocked on the apartment door of someone who worked for the government. They'd say, "Oh, you're with the New Democrats. Thank goodness. I'm a woman, and I earn about 40 percent less than my male counterparts. I'd love to work on your campaign, but I'd be fired if my department ever found out. Still, we need some changes."

Mr. Speaker, of the 20,000 constituents of Edmonton Centre, 17,000 live in apartments. It was an awful campaign for lawn signs. And door knocking — well, forget it. They are just never home. When I've heard hon. members go on about the family and traditional family values as being the backbone of Alberta, I think they must be maligning my Edmonton Centre, because I don't have a ma and pa and the kids who sit home at nights watching Dallas and Knowlton Nash and hoping the lottery does well. My folks are out at the bars, the night clubs, at the movies, at the theatre, at dinner parties with friends, working late and playing hard. They're often young, single, students, some newly married, some newly employed, a lot newly unemployed. They are artists, writers, small business people, young professionals, members of the press gallery, office workers from downtown, and even a large number of gay men and women. Native people, new Canadians, transient homeless people: they are all my constituents. They are all Albertans, and they have rights too.

The aristocratic airs of the Progressive Conservative government don't impress the urban youth of today. They want freshness and imagination in public office. They want a sense of renewal. But I was told I still didn't have a chance of winning, because the solid voting block that always clobbers the radical young socialists at the polls was that reliable army of blue-blooded Conservatives, the senior citizens of Alberta, of which I have many in Edmonton Centre. But you know, somehow it isn't true anymore. Maybe it's because they remember who tried to bring in deindexing, maybe because they've come to know how overinstitutionalized and coddled they've been by this government. But it's even deeper than that. I think our elderly people are beginning to question where fairness and balance is found. They want to give the future that they may never see to the people who most care about people, not about things.

One 82-year-old woman who has lived in Alberta all her life, blind from childhood, a saintly woman — no doubt a Tory, if not a Sacred or a Rep — told me right from the start, "William, you're going to win." I said, "Sure, sure, sure." She'd insist: "No, I've seen a lot of them come and go in this province, and now it's your turn. You have good ideas, you speak well, and you care about people. You are going to win." We drastically improved the vote in all eight seniors' residences in Edmonton Centre, Mr. Speaker, and I even won two of them. When she arrived at my victory campaign headquarters near midnight on May 8, I finally broke down and cried, because she had so renewed me.

To preserve the health and the wellbeing of all of the above, Mr. Speaker, Edmonton Centre also boasts of having two of our province's finest hospitals, the Edmonton General and the Royal Alexandra, and not just the hospital's beds and its equipment and technology but also the many people who give and receive the human touch of health care. Most of the doctors do not live in Edmonton Centre. They live in Glenora or Whitemud or Sherwood Park. In fact, it's interesting. Talleyrand once said that war is much too serious a matter to be entrusted to the military. Our variation of this truth may be that medical care is much too serious a matter to be entrusted only to the doctors.

The unfortunate mess they are making of things in Ontario is bringing some shame and doubt upon the nobility of their profession. For us in Alberta to have in this Speech from the Throne the only reference to a health facility to be the Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre, the Taj Mahal of the north as it's called, is like parading a Cadillac around a MASH unit. Heart and lung transplants, Mr. Speaker? I'm sorry, but it is the most expensive form of medical treatment, and it's the least necessary anywhere. The people who need it are mostly type A men, who drink a lot, smoke a lot, are often highly stressed because they haven't learned how to humanly manage their work place or take time to relax and love their families. Some of the best health care is at the Royal Alexandra, where an elderly stroke woman began for the first time to smile and to speak because a nurse took the time to put a flower in her hair. It didn't cost a dime.

Certainly the manifold issues surrounding hospitals and medical care in this province are complex. It comprises nearly 25 percent of the provincial budget. As the critic for health care for Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, I am eager to debate the key issues with the hospitals minister over the next four years, mindful that in Edmonton Centre I talked with the nurses, dieticians, OTs, PTs, social workers, Physicians for Social Responsibility, the clergy and, yes, with the patients. They want a renewal of a sense of health care that is human, that has equal access for everyone. Yes, call it socialized medicine if you will, but if we have to resurrect Tommy Douglas and the CCF and go through the Regina doctors' strike all over again, we will, because a healthy society at all levels is this province's most renewable resource.

So, Mr. Speaker, the acid test for this Speech from the Throne and for all members of this Assembly is to know the true sources from which our provincial renewal springs. Last year many Albertans noted with disappointment that there were only three contenders for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party and that the one who became its leader was not even in public office at the time. Many Albertans rejected the use of past sentimentalities in the election campaign, sadly seeing the hon. Premier reduced to being seen as yesterday's mail, an image wildly off the mark for people needing renewal and a vision for the future.

Many Albertans are beginning to see that the management style of this government, which was widely taught, particularly at the Harvard Business School, that West Point of capitalism in the '50s and '60s, leads to nothing but early burnout and organizational disarray. I went to Harvard too, but today, thankfully, they teach the art of negotiation, of skills in a conflict where there is a win-win situation, not a win-lose situation. They teach today simply this: that in organizations where primarily human beings are valued, productivity always increases. Can't we please send Peter Pocklington and the hon. Premier on a sabbatical? While

they are away, the ruling Conservative Party must find the sources of renewal themselves, for they won't find it in this Speech from the Throne. Will they find it in the hon. members for Sherwood Park, Calgary Shaw, Calgary Montrose, or Barrhead, or will they, too, be swallowed up in neoconservatism?

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the momentum from the electorate is with the New Democrats. We are providing a deeper sense of renewal to the people at this unprecedented point in provincial history. Yet we have much to learn, mistakes to make, and a lot of work to do. We are helped by our cousins in Manitoba, soon by our brothers and sisters in Saskatchewan and British Columbia. We are making quantum leaps forward in Quebec, and we hold the balance of power in Ontario. What is the secret of our new-found strength? Well, Socrates once said that the unexamined life is not worth living, and there's wisdom to that, to be sure. But the examined life is not always a picnic either.

In such times, I fall back on the most precious of wisdom for me, my children. Much of what we really need to know about how to live and what to do can be learned in kindergarten, Mr. Speaker. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain. Some of the things that we as New Democrats believe are the same things that we learned as children. That is: share everything; play fair; don't hit people; put things back where you found them; clean up your own mess; don't take things that aren't yours; say you're sorry when you hurt somebody; wash your hands before you eat; make sure to flush; warm cookies and cold milk are good for you; live a balanced life; learn some and think some; draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work everyday; take a nap every afternoon — some of you backbenchers would appreciate that — when you go into the world, watch out for traffic; hold hands and stick together; be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup; the roots go down, the plant goes up, and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that. Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the plastic cup: they all die, and so do we.

Take any of these items, extrapolate them into our sophisticated adult terms, apply them to our family life or to our government, and they will still hold true and clear and firm. Think what a better world it will be if the whole world had cookies and milk about 3 o'clock, and then we all laid down with our blankets for a nap, or if the United States of America had a basic policy to always put things back where they found them and to clean up its own mess. And still it is true that no matter how old you are when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

With these simple truths, Mr. Speaker, we renewed New Democrats have taken great strength from the women's movement. The macho male is out. We are nurtured by the renewing fresh sources of the feminine, for after all, the word uterus in Hebrew is the same as the word for compassion. We have taken strength from the peace movement, from the people who look for reconciliation, for interdependence, for a sense of one world or no world. We have taken strength not only from people in high technology and management but that high technology and management be done with a high human touch. In our information society we New Democrats know how to talk openly with people. In economic theory we, as our hon. House leader has already said, believe in a mixed economy and know that we just need to structure that properly. We

have faith in the most renewable resource in this province, which is the people of this society. It's not rich Albertans or individual Albertans; it's all Albertans collectively, where people at all levels care and work together. Call that socialism if you will. It may be social Darwinism which motivates the Conservatives; it is social democracy which motivates us.

I will vote against the motion to accept the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, because for all these reasons it does not provide the renewal of spirit and imagination which the people of this province want and which they deserve. We must all work together harder and better to enhance the day when the wild rose of Alberta will come fully to bloom. Until that day, may God help us all and may God save the Queen.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DR. CASSIN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to move adjournment of the debate on the throne speech.

MR. SPEAKER: Having heard the motion for adjournment of the debate by the hon. Member for Calgary North West, does the Assembly agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Opposed, if any? Carried.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, it's not intended that the Assembly sit Monday night. On Monday afternoon the business would be Committee of the Whole study of the interim supply Bill.

Mr. Speaker, I move we call it 1 o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: Having heard the motion by the hon. Government House Leader that it be called 1 o'clock, does the Assembly agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

[At 12:59 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 4, the House adjourned to Monday at 2:30 p.m.]